Regulatory authority for bio-technology

2201. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is proposed to set up regulatory authority for biotechnology;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The Government of India is in the process of setting up of a regulatory authority for biotechnology product and processes. The Department of Biotechnology, Ministry of Science and Technology has been entrusted to act as the nodal agency to establish "National Biotechnology Regulatory Authority" (NBRA) through an act of Parliament. Accordingly, a consultative group of experts have prepared draft establishment plan of NBRA and the proposed Bill. Both the draft documents were put in public domain for review and comments. Several consultative meetings were held with concerned stakeholders representing farmers and consumer's organizations, industry, legal experts, media and academia/scientists from research institutions/universities. State Governments were also consulted for their feedback. An Interdisciplinary and Inter-ministerial Advisory Committee was also constituted to oversee and advise on all matters related to drafting, reviewing the comments of experts and stakeholders as well as preparing final documents. The governmental process of inter-ministerial consultation has been completed for obtaining necessary approvals for the NBR Bill by the Cabinet and subsequently the Parliament as per procedure.

Disability certificates

2202. SHRI VIJAY JAWAHARLAL DARDA:
SHRIMATI SYEDA ANWARA TAIMUR:

Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether only 22 per cent of physically challenged people are in possession of the prescribed disabilities certificates;

(b) if so, whether Administrative Reforms Commission in its 12th Report has attributed this to non-existence of simple, transparent and client-friendly procedures;

(c) whether "The Persons with Disabilities Act, 1995" has adequate provisions for this; and

(d) if not, the steps for one week issuance norm?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI D. NAPOLEON): (a) Information was given by State Government in 2007 that about